WHISPER

by YAET SARAM

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I-it's not like we need your help, baka!
WE ACTUALLY DO
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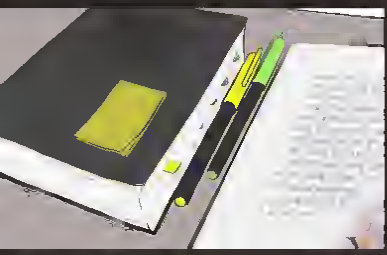
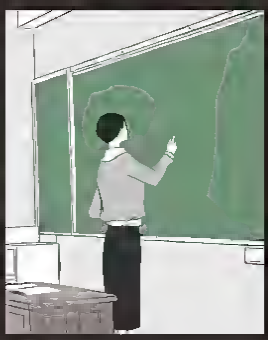
I THINK I KNEW FROM A YOUNG AGE THAT THERE WERE "THINGS I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO."





Ding
Dong
Ding
Dong~
Pause

I STILL HAVE TWO PROBLEMS LEFT...

LET'S CONCEN-TRATE FOR FIVE MORE MINUTES
Chatter
Chatter

AFTER SCHOOL,

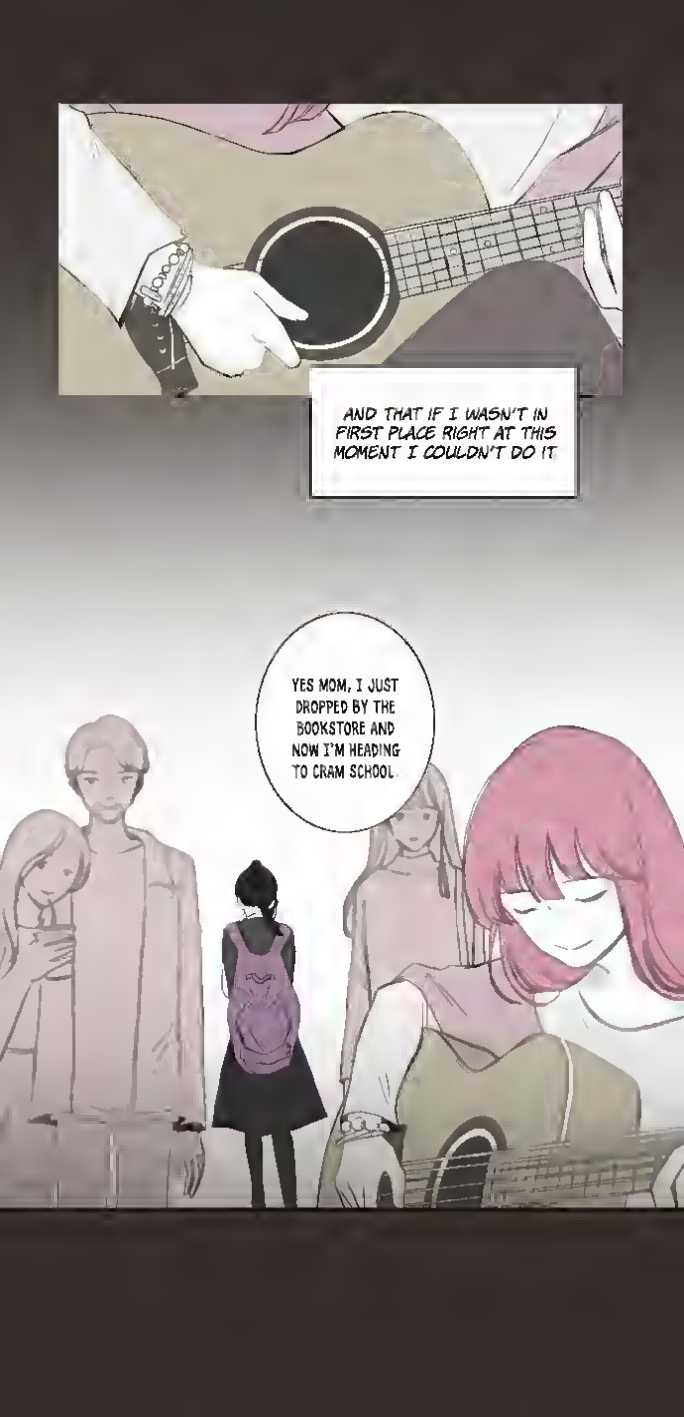
WHEN I SAW CLASSMATES PLAYING TOGETHER IN GROUPS OF TWOS AND THREES, I NEVER EVEN CONSIDERED THE IDEA OF WANTING TO PLAY WITH THEM.

TL/N: Ddukbokki or Tteokbokki is a spicy rice cake dish which is considered a snack.

BECAUSE I KNEW THAT EVEN IF I WANTED TO, I COULDN'T.

AND EVEN IF I WERE TO GROW AN INTEREST IN SOMETHING...

I KNEW THAT IT WAS SOMETHING I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYWAY AND I SHOULDN'T EVEN DREAM ABOUT IT.


AND THAT IF I WASN'T IN FIRST PLACE RIGHT AT THIS MOMENT I COULDN'T DO IT
YES MOM, I JUST DROPPED BY THE BOOKSTORE AND NOW I'M HEADING TO CRAM SCHOOL.

STILL, THANKFULLY, I GUESS I HAD A GOOD HEAD FOR STUDYING SINCE MY GRADES REFLECTED THE WORK I WAS PUTTING IN

School Newsletter

* Class Ranking – 1
* Year Ranking – 1

WHEN I RECEIVED MY GRADES, RATHER THAN BEING HAPPY THAT I ACCOMPLISHED SOMETHING

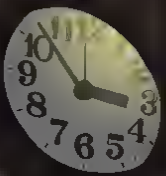
THE FACT THAT MY PARENTS WERE HAPPY WAS WHAT MADE ME HAPPY.
GREAT JOB. LET'S TELL YOUR DAD AND LET'S GO OUT TO EAT SOON.
OKAY.

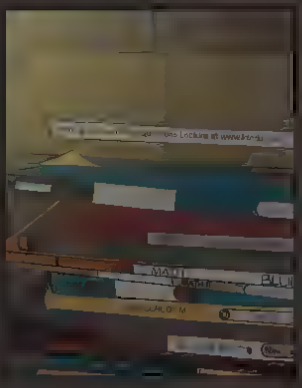
BUT...
MY DAUGHTER,
YOU DO KNOW THAT IT IS NOT SO IMPORTANT TO HAVE GOOD GRADES IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, RIGHT? IT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE GETTING GOOD GRADES LIKE THIS IN THE FUTURE

YOUR TUTOR WILL BE HERE SOON SO GO IN AND REVIEW SOME MORE.

I COULD SEE THAT. TO MY MOM, BEING IN FIRST PLACE WAS NOT THE FINISH LINE, BUT THE STARTING POINT.

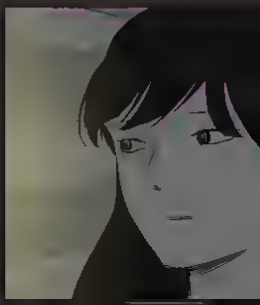
SO BECAUSE I FELT THAT, TO MAKE MY MOM TRULY HAPPY, I NEEDED TO ACCOMPLISH MORE THAN WHAT I ALREADY WAS. I...





THINK I WORKED EVEN HARDER
THEN ONE DAY, AS USUAL, I FELL ASLEEP FOR A LITTLE BIT AND WAS WOKEN BY THE SOUND OF THE ALARM.

BUT I FELT WEIRD

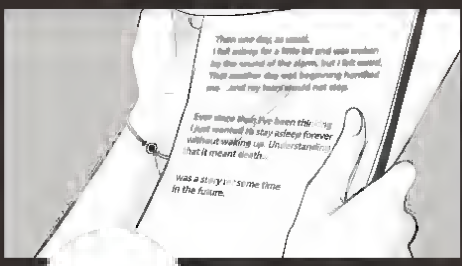


THAT ANOTHER DAY
WAS BEGINNING
HORRIFIED ME...

AND MY TEARS WOULDN'T STOP.
EVER SINCE THEN I'VE BEEN THINKING I JUST WANTED TO STAY ASLEEP FOREVER WITHOUT WAKING UP.

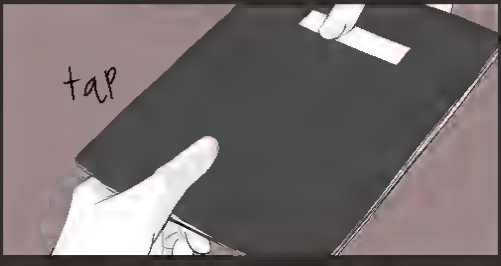
UNDERSTANDING THAT IT MEANT DEATH.

WAS A STORY FOR SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE.

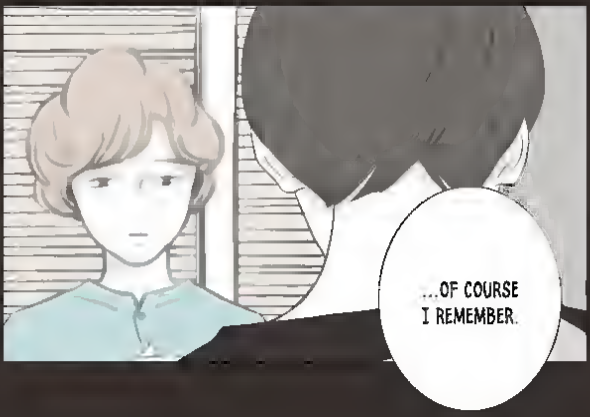

Then one day, as usual,
I felt asleep for a little bit and was woken
by the sound of the alarm, but I felt weird.
That another day was beginning horrified
me ...and my heart would not stop.
Ever since that, I've been thi... g
I just wanted to stay asleep forever
without waking up. Understandin...
that it meant death...
Was a story f... some time
in the future.

THAT'S THE END
IT'S A JOURNAL WHICH CONTAINS DETAILS ABOUT COUNSELING THAT YOU RECEIVED HERE A LONG TIME AGO
I FEEL THAT IT MAY HAVE BEEN WHEN YOU WERE AROUND THE SAME AGE AS YOUR DAUGHTER.. AM I RIGHT?

AND THIS IS THE JOURNAL THAT CONTAINS DETAILS ABOUT THE COUNSELING YOUR DAUGHTER RECEIVED A FEW DAYS AGO


tap

I'M SURE YOU'LL KNOW WHEN YOU SEE IT. BUT IT'S ASTONISHINGLY SIMILAR, CORRECT?
.....
BY CHANCE, DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU WROTE THIS JOURNAL?


...OF COURSE I REMEMBER.

HOW COULD I FORGET. IT WAS WHEN THE WEIGHT OF THAT HEAVY BACKPACK

Class Ranking – 2
Year Ranking – 6
WAS LIGHTER THAN THE BURDEN ON MY HEART...
...BECOMING A PARENT... IS SOMETHING QUITE IRONIC, ISN'T IT?
BUT DOCTOR! I KNOW THAT AT THE TIME IT WAS HARD, BUT IN THE END, THE PRESSURE THAT MY PARENTS PUT ON ME WAS NEVER A BAD THING!

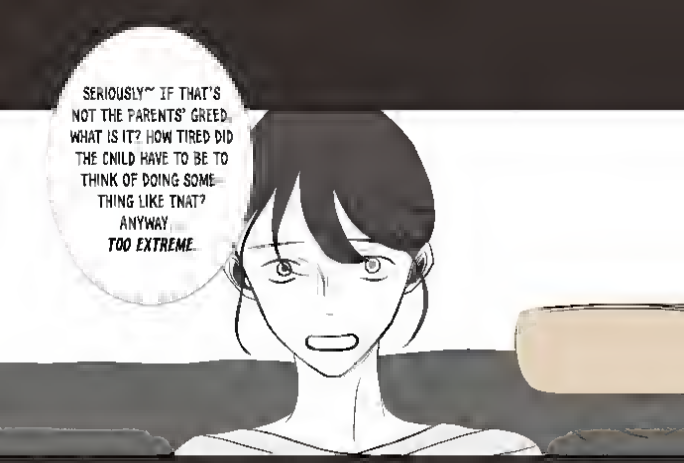
BECAUSE DUE TO THAT PRESSURE, I AM LIVING A GOOD LIFE WHERE I RECEIVE ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND RESPECT FROM SOCIETY!
THAT'S THE KIND OF LIFE I WANTED SEUNG HEE TO HAVE. SO EVEN IF IT'S A LITTLE HARD RIGHT NOW, I WAS DOING IT FOR THE FUTURE OF MY CHILD!
NOWHERE IN WHAT I DID WAS FOR MYSELF!
BUT THAT WAS A LIFE THAT WAS SUITED FOR YOU

WHAT...
DO YOU MEAN?
IT MAY BE THAT YOUR DAUGHTER IS NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO ENDURE AS YOU DID BACK THEN.
SO WHY DO YOU...

BLINDLY BELIEVE
THAT YOUR CHILD
WILL ENDURE
IT ALL?

BUT AREN'T ALL THE OTHER MOMS ARE LIKE THIS? WE JUST WANT OUR CHILDREN TO DO WELL...!
THERE ARE MANY THEORETICAL EXPLANATIONS THAT MATCH A SITUATION LIKE THIS BUT AS I'VE LIVED, I'VE REALIZED THAT SOME THINGS CAN'T BE HELPED.

Because that's what it means to be a parent. Just look a little closer at your child
as the child they are and care for them.


SERIOUSLY~ IF THAT'S NOT THE PARENTS' GREED, WHAT IS IT? HOW TIRED DID THE CHILD HAVE TO BE TO THINK OF DOING SOMETHING LIKE THAT? ANYWAY... TOO EXTREME...

Ring
Ring

OH MY, HELLO DOCTOR~

OH REALLY?! I THOUGHT I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO BECAUSE THERE WERE SO MANY RESERVATIONS...

YES, MY DUE DATE IS THE 8TH OF NEXT MONTH I HEARD THAT IT IS GOOD TO START AS SOON AS THEY BEGIN TO TOODLE, SO I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR THE CHILD IF I DID IT AHEAD OF TIME...

HAHA YES, THANK YOU~ THEN I'LL SEE YOU SOON~

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